

Bay Area Transit Operators Report One-Year Drop In Injuries and Fatalities

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires transit operators to report collision and personal security incident information in order to track transit safety and security in a post-9/11 era. Incidents that result in injuries or fatalities must be reported. Incident types include: vehicle collisions, derailment, fire, hazardous material spills, security events, assault, vandalism, robbery and motor vehicle theft.

In 2002, the FTA shifted to a new reporting system that requires transit operators to submit more frequent and more comprehensive reports on transit safety. These new requirements improved the quality of safety statistics. From 2002 through 2005, transit operators were transitioning to this new system. Fiscal year 2005-06 is the first year for which data on transit-related injuries and fatalities became available (under this new system) for the Bay Area. This is the data category we report here.

Results for the region’s three largest transit operators (Muni, BART and AC Transit) are included in the data, as are statistics for mid-sized operators such as

VTA, SamTrans and Golden Gate Transit. Some of the smaller operators’ incidents are reported, but not all of the transit operators in the Bay Area report incidents to the Federal Transit Administration.

Here are some highlights of the Bay Area transit safety data:

- Although Bay Area transit usage increased from fiscal year 2005-06 to 2006-07 (see “Transit Ridership”), the number of injuries and fatalities on transit vehicles and in stations declined slightly during this period. The total number of injuries decreased by 83, a 7 percent decline. While the percentage of fatalities went down by 25 percent in 2006-07, this represented only four fewer fatalities than the prior year’s total.
- The rate of injuries and fatalities decreased from 2005-06 to 2006-07. In 2006-07, there were approximately 2.2 injuries or fatalities for every thousand people boarding transit.

Injuries and Fatalities Involving Bay Area Transit, Fiscal Year 2005-06–2006-07

	2005-06	2006-07	Percent Change 2005-06– 2006-07
Injuries	1,169	1,086	–7%
Fatalities	16	12	–25%
Total	1,185	1,098	–7%
Rate of injuries and fatalities per thousand passenger boardings	2.5	2.2	–12%

Source: Federal Transit Administration, National Transit Database. Includes: BART, AC Transit, MUNI, VTA, Caltrain, SamTrans, Sonoma County Transit, Santa Rosa CityBus, Napa VINE, Golden Gate Transit, Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority, Vallejo Transit, County Connection